

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2989

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 2 2 8

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, GW, UR

SUBJ: FRG CONSUL BODEN ATTACKED IN LENINGRAD PRESS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 1834, (B) LENINGRAD 0173

1. VECHERNIY LENINGRAD ON FEBRUARY 24 FIRED PARTING SHOT AT DPO OF FRG CONSULATE GENERAL, DIETER BODEN, WHO SCHEDULED TO DEPART ON NORMAL REASSIGNMENT MARCH 9-10. SHOT WAS IN FORM QUARTER PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "STRANGE HOBBY OF MR. BODEN", WHICH FOCUSED ON BODEN'S CONTACTS WITH DISSIDENTS. ARTICLE WAS MAINLY ATMOSPHERIC PIECE WHICH IMPLIED THAT BESIDES HIS OTHER DUTIES BODEN HAD "HOBBY" OF IMPROPER ESPIONAGE-LIKE ACTIVITY, BUT IT REFRAINED FROM SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS THAT HE HAD VIOLATED LAW.

2. ARTICLE COMES AS NO SURPRIZE GIVEN OFFICIAL DEMARCHE

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AGAINST BODEN IN MOSCOW FEBRUARY 4 (REFTELS).

IT HAS, HOWEVER, RAISED SOME APPREHENSION IN LOCAL

DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY ABOUT ITS BROADER IMPLICATIONS VS LIGHT

OF RISING SOVIET FUROR AGAINST WESTERN ATTACKS ON SOVIET

HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. ARTICLE WAS CLEARLY SHAPED TO FIT IN

WITH CURRENT SOVIET ATTACKS ON VOA AND ON DIPLOMATS WHO

ALLEGEDLY WORK AGAINST RATHER THAN FOR "RELAXING INTERNATIONAL

TENSIONS." IN PARTICULAR IT SEEMS TO BE RENEWED SOVIET ATTEMPT TO DEFINE "LEGITIMATE" BEHAVIOR FOR DIPLOMATS IN RATHER NARROW SOVIET TERMS.

3. IMPACT OF ARTICLE WAS ENHANCED BY ITS APPEARANCE SO SOON AFTER FEBRUARY 19 SPEECH BY POLITBURO MEMBER AND FIRST PARTY SECRETARY OF LENINGRAD OBLAST, GRIGORIY ROMANOV, TO REGIONAL PARTY PLENUM IN WHICH ROMANOV--IN CONTEXT CURRENT WESTERN HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISM--CALLED FOR ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL MEANS OF POLITICAL VIGILANCE AND "RELENTLESS STRUGGLE" TO PROTECT LENINGRADERS AGAINST "UNDER-HANDED PLOTTING OF INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND IDEOLOGICAL CENTERS OF CAPITALIST COUNTRIES".

4. AMONG MAIN POINTS IN V.L. ARTICLE WERE FOLLOWING:

--ARTICLE CONTAINED INDIRECT ATTACK ON VOA--REFERRED TO TWICE IN ARTICLE ONLY AS "VOICE"--WHICH SEEN AS DEFENDING PARASITICAL WAY OF LIFE OF HOOLIGANS AND AS TNBLWHICH HOOLIGANS USE TO INTIMIDATE POLICE. THE LATTER POINT IS FASCINATING PUBLIC ADMISSION THAT REACTION OF WESTERN MEDIA DOES INDEED AFFECT SOVIET WNTIONS.

--ARTICLE IMPLIES ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES BY SAYING THAT BODEN TAUGHT "SECRET COMMUNICATIONS" TO DISSIDENT POET VADIM FILIMONOV; SENT ILYA LEVIN OFF ON INFORMATION HUNTS; AND STATING THCT INFORMANTS WERE "PAID FOR THEIR INFORMATION AND LIES." MANNER OF PAYMENT IS NOT SPECIFIED ALTHOUGH ARTICLE CONFIDENTIAL

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EARLIER ON HAS FILIMONOV TRYING TO BUY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM A RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR WEST GERMAN MARKS.

--BODEN IS MADE OUT AS JEKYLL AND HYDE FIGURE. HE IS DESCRIBED AT OFFICIAL RECEPTIONS AS "ALWAYS VERY GALLANT, INFORMED ON OLD RUSSIAN ART, AND TALKING OF STRENGTHENING PEACEFUL TIES". ARTICLE IMPLIES, HOWEVER, THAT HE REALLY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT INFORMING WEST OF ANY "SCANDALS" OR ANY POSSIBILITY OF "SCANDALOUS EVENTS". BODEN ISPORTRAYED AS "CHANGING COMPLETELY AT SUCH TIMES" AND "AS CONFIRMED BY THE GAI" CAN BE "SEEN EVERYWHERE DRIVING LIKE MAD, IGNORING ALL RULES OF TRAFFIC." THE PUBLIC IS THUS WARNED TO BE DISTRUSTFUL OF WESTERN DIPLOMATS WHATEVER THEIR SEEMINGLY INNOCUOUS BEHAVIOR.

--BULK OF ARTICLE IS USED TO PLANT SORRY PICTURE OF THREE OF BODEN'S CONTACTS--DISSIDENT ARTIST, A.F. AREF'EV; ILYA LEVIN; AND POET VADIM FILIMONOV--AS CONVICTS AND DREGS OF SOCIETY. THRUST, HOWEVER, IS TO WARN DISSIDENTS ABOUT THEIR CONTACTS

WITH FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND WARN THEM THAT THEY ARE BEING WATCHED.

5. COMMENT: WHILE BODEN ARTICLE IS NOT UNUSUAL EXAMPLE OF SOVIET FAREWELL PRESENT FOR JOB WELL DONE, IT IS DISTURBING IN ITS IMPLICATION THAT CONTACT WITH DISSIDENT ELEMENTS SOMEHOW ILLEGAL AND IMPROPER ACTIVITY FOR DIPLOMATS. THIS, ALONG WITH ROMANOV MEASURES FOR STRENGTHENING VIGILANCE, IMPLIES STILL FURTHER TIGHTENING UP IN PERIOD AHEAD. MEANWHILE, FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, LENINGRAD OFFICIAL COMMUNITY AND EASTERN EUROPEANS, ARE BOYCOTTING FAREWELL PARTIES FOR BODEN. NEUBERT

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